Atkinson's Saturday Evening Post

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER, DEVOTED TO LITERATURE, MORALITY, SCIENCE, NEWS, AGRICULTURE AND AMUSEMENT.

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By Samuel Conte Atkinson,

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27 Untaid Letters must be post paid to receive attention.

THE PLEDGE.

Written for the Saturday Evening Post.

Ay! take it back! that gaudy thing
In vain it flaunts before my eyes!
Remove it for another one—
A love-token true, and less divine.

Then wouldst thou have me wear this gem
Upon a rosen heart;
A lasting sign of what thou were,
A seal of what thou art?

I could not bear the withering thought,
That other eyes might rest
Upon that heart which whose home
Should be another's breast.

That morning sun should mark the shade
Of guilt upon my brow,
And gaze with haughty glance, upon
The wretch's unstained glow.

I could not wear a badge like this,
The wrought with choicest art—
Thy worthless gift conceal
A pained and broken heart.

Keep it not—however true
Thou mayest deem thy love—
Of that false love thou soon professed,
No outward sign shall tell.

LAURA.

MEMOIRS OF VIDOCQ.

Principal Agent of the French Police until 1837.—Written by himself.—Translated from the French. Philadelphia, Carey & Hart.

In giving the extraordinary production a hasty perusal, we have been much interested with the impression that it would be a valuable accession to the literature of the day. They are so full of various and surprising accidents, and the whole narrative is so continuously interesting, that, any extract however long would convey but an inadequate idea of the merits of the author and his work. But if from its nature we are prevented from exercising our powers of critical analysement, we are in no way restrained in expressing our opinion of its merits.

In the introduction we are informed that "Eugene Francois Vidocq was a native of Arras, where his father was a baker, and lived from which he rose to high into concerns of success, which led to the necessity of his flying from the paternal roof.

After many hair-breadth and unparalleled events in the romance of real life, in which he was every thing by turns and nothing long, he became a gay young spark and became the principal and most active agent of police. He was the Chief of the Police de Surete, under Messrs. Delavau and Franchet, and continued in that capacity from the year 1810 till 1827, during which period he had under his orders nearly all those rude lazzaroni and villains to whom the excesses of the revolution and subsequent wars had given birth, and for the preservation of the most daring robberies and iniquitous proceedings.

Removed from employment, in which he had accumulated a handsome independence, he could not determine on leading a life of repose. He had the career of perpetual vigilance and adventure had unfitted him, and he became a manufacturer of Paper Maude, about two leagues from Paris, where he employs from forty to fifty persons,—principally, it is asserted, liberated convicts, whom he employs in preference of the time of their sentence, ex cast upon society without home, or friends, or character. Here he continues to resort to dishonest practices did not this asylum offer them the possession, and afford them opportunity of earning an honest living by industrious practices.

Such is a brief outline of the career of Vidocq—he commenced his memoirs in 1827, during his imprisonment, becomes a jolly companion of the "prigs"—is condemned to a second imprisonment—the commander and spy—and ultimately settles down to provide for negroes—the oppressors and murderers!

The life of the man must be a curious one from first to last—talk of the adventures of Don Quixote—Gil Blas—Robinson Crusoe—Baron Munchausen—Peter Wilkins—or the marvellous incidents of Rob-man Cruise—they are commonplace and tame, and dwindle into nothing in comparison with the chivalric deeds—horrid triumphs, &c. &c. contained in the life of Vidocq—we are ever to be remembered Vidocq his escapes from prisons, the ingenious devices which he adopted to elude pursuit, and his dexterity in the art of crime detection—his wonderful transformation of person, and complete metamorphosis of character, are subjects highly attractive connected with his history, impress the reader with astonishment, that any man in a civilized region; a great spy; a great deceiver, and altogether a very great man.

In this narrative no species of vice is concealed—prostitution is exhibited in its best and worst features—all the varieties of gambling are revealed, and in an attentive perusal of the work, any one possessing an ordinary share of penetration, may from it, complete, dexterous and accomplish d rogue.

It has been a matter of marvel to us, frequently, in registering the rapid advancement of crime in the world, in existence—that no genius has stepped forth, showing the advantages of developing the principles of roguery—but on this subject we shall no longer wonder—Vidocq, the immortal Vidocq—has opened the secrets of picking—picking—picking—picking—picking—receiving and hiding, in a manner as creditable to himself as it is beneficial to others.

According to Vidocq, Paris contains more scoundrels than any other city in the world—we were not aware of all the rogues in the universe—and where may be found more cunning, more trickery, greater swindling, and open robbery, that was ever devised, schemed or invented by man. We cannot but say that these revelations are very interesting, and to the philosopher most prove instructive. But we doubt their utility to the great body of community in a pleasant mind. We fear that their perusal will have a demoralizing effect, and be productive of more evil than good—the latent fatty of moral principle which is the only safe guard to virtue.

However, be this as it may, the book will be extensively read, and if we could think that it might safely be commended to the public, we would not hesitate to say, that it is one of the most engaging and extraordinary productions, in the way of a memoir, ever published.

Notwithstanding our opinion that Vidocq has called occasionally into requisition his remarkable genius, and that in too many instances, he has established his reputation and obtained his wealth at the expense of fellow-men—yet upon the whole we believe that his narrative is true, and that he has related the circumstances of his life, as they occurred in the order of their real.

In dismissing this production, we regret that we have not room to enumerate more fully its moral features, but on the whole it must be regarded as a production in a own judgment, and if it produces nothing more than amusement, we shall be glad to present our compliments to the author Vidocq.

As Accomplished Thief.—After the meeting of the fetters was done (in a general way to that in which it had been performed at my first departure) I was put at the head of the first section, with Joseph, one of the most celebrated thieves of Paris. He was a man better known as the marquis de Saint Armand de Paris, which he had assumed. He was a man of thirty-six years old, with a gentlemanly appearance, and also of manners. He was the most perfect master of finesse. His travelling costume was that of a dandy having his bed-room in his boudoir. With pockets worn of silver, and his cane, he wore a waistcoat trimmed with Asiatrac fur, of the same colour, and the whole completed with a large shawl lined with crimson velvet. His expenditure equalled his appearance, but, on account of his high connections and influence of repose, he also supported three or four others of the section.

Joseph never had any education, but having entered when very young into the service of a rich colonel, whom he accompanied in all his travels, he acquired manners sufficiently good not to disgrace any circle. There has sometimes been seen in the most select circles in the first society, named him "Passe-par-tout." He was so completely identified with the character, that at the Bagne, without consulting the register, and imagining indiscriminately with men of the most miserable appearance, he would keep up a conversation for hour, and though educated in a convict's cassock—having "Gentleman" written on his back in crimson, he bestowed an hour daily on his toilet, and was extremely particular about the appearance of his beards, which were constantly very handsome.

Joseph was one of those thieves, of whom fortunate, by her love of gain, or wealth, he was enabled and prepared an enterprise sometimes as long as a year before hand. Operating principally by means of false keys, he began by making a model in wax of the lock of the outer door. The key made, he entered the first part of the night of the enterprise, he took another model, and opened her inside and that in the second chamber, and it seemed by her inside, that only being able to get on during the absence from the inside of the apartment, he must lose much time before the actual operation of robbery could be effected. He only had recourse to this experiment when in company, that is, when it was impossible to introduce himself to the house; for if he could contrive to procure admittance under any pretext, he soon obtained impressions of all the locks, and when the keys were ready, he used to invite the persons to dine with him, in the Rue Chantereine, and whilst they were at table, his accomplice stopped the apartments, from whence he had also contrived to draw away the servants either by asking their masters to bring them to bale to visit at the table, or by engaging the attention of the waiting maids and cooks by lovers who were in the plot. The porters gave nothing, because they seldom took anything but drinks of wine. The dinner being ended, the guests are to be removed, they locked it up in their pockets, and it was thrown out of a window to an accomplice in waiting, and who was generally in the street.

Joseph was a man of the most refined taste, and well informed, of all subjects except that for which he was educated, and of which he was a master. He had the opportunity of gaining the information, which he possessed, by the conversation of the persons with whom he except that of the cash chest, of which a secret ward concerned all the domestics, commencing with the valet de chambre, and ending with the scullion. The cashier, too, never parted from his key but the three o'master did not hand Joseph. Having formed a close intimacy with the cashier, he pressed on an occasion of pleasure to dine with him, on the day appointed, they went to a concert, &c. On approaching the Rue Louvois, they saw by the river side a woman apparently dying, and the blood spouting from her mouth and nostrils. The cashier, with his usual politeness, stopped, and, assisting her, found her to be a married female, of the profession of blood was to spare a key to the back of the door. But no one had a key, except the cashier, who, at first, offered that of his apartment. That offer declined. The cashier, pressed, at length, gave their address. The lady, charmed at meeting with those who appeared to be persons of the first distinction, and which was opposed with the second between the husband and the police. It has been since ascertained that a piece of machinery was had been placed there expressly for the occasion, and the whole scene had been concerted. These duty after, the cash-box was empty.

As I have already stated, Joseph played off the lash and mighty, spent money with the freedom of a man who constantly by it. Besides, he was very charitable, and I could cite many instances of his charitable generosity, which I leave to the examination of journalists. Amongst others, the following: One day he penetrated into an inner apartment in the Rue de Rivoli, which he had been informed would yield a rich booty. At first the resistance of the inmates surprised him, but the proprietor might be a miner. He went on operating, and, after two hours' labor, succeeded only found in a desk a bundle of parchment's deeds. Before he left, he took from his pocket five louis, and placing them on the mantel-piece, wrote on the glass three words, "Payment for broken furniture;" he then closed, and, after closing the doors carefully, lest any other robbers, less scrupulous, should carry off what he had left.

When Joseph set out with us for Bicetre it was his third journey. He afterwards escaped twice, was retaken, and died at the Bagne at Rochefort in 1806.—*Memoirs of Vidocq.*

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DISCOVERY OF AMERICA.

Among the many discoverers made since creation, that of the western world (America) deserves doubtless the first rank. Christopher Columbus, a (Genoese) when about 40 years of age, had formed the project of travelling to the East Indies, by sailing westward; but as his offers was very small, he applied to several European Courts for assistance, but without success, for many years; at last he was patronized by Isabella of Spain, the wife of Ferdinand, husband Ferdinand, declining to partake as an adventurer in the voyage, only gave it the sanction of his name. Columbus, however, with only three vessels, set sail from Port Palos in the province of Andalusia, on the 3d of August 1492, he proceeded to the Canary Islands, and from thence directed his course due W, and continued for 30 days without meeting with land, which came unusual to suppress. He was at length induced by his crew almost hunting into a serious engagement to abandon the enterprise as to return home, if land did not appear in three days. On the 12th day of the 3d month (Oct) they discovered it. It was an Island, abounding with fruit trees, and inhabited by a people naked; their manners were simple, their wants few, and their desires moderate.

Proceeding farther to the south, he saw three other Islands, and at length arrived at a very large Island called Cuba, but to which he gave the name of Isabella. He had taken the precaution before the leaving of San Salvador on board, he learned from them that it was called Cuba, but he gave it the name of Isabella. He next proceeded to an Island which he called Espanyola in, honor of the nation by which he was employed. Here he built a Fort and formed a small settlement. He then returned home, having on board some of the natives, some of the productions of the different Islands, and arrived at the Port of Palos on the 15th of March 1493, having been seven months and eleven days absent on this important voyage. Nothing could possibly tend more effectually to rouse the adventurous spirit in human nature, than the discoveries which Columbus had made: no time was therefore lost, nor expense spared in preparing a fleet of ships, with which this great man should revisit the countries he had made known. Seventeen ships were got ready in six months, and fifteen hundred persons embarked on board them, among whom were many of good families. These engaged in the enterprise, from the expectation, that the new discovered country was either the Garden of Eden, or the Land of Ophir from which Solomon obtained his gold and precious stones. Columbus had in this second time from the port of Cadiz on the 25th of September 1493; when he arrived at St. Espanyola, he had the affliction to find, that all the Spaniards whom he left there, about 36 in number, had been put to death by the natives, in revenge for the cruelties and outrages which they had committed; therefore soon after his return to that Island, he resolved to make war with the Indians, who amounted to about 100,000 men. Having collected his full force, he attacked them by night, whilst they were assembled in a wide plain, and obtained a most decisive victory without the loss of one man on his part. Being now in possession of the country, the seat of which was appalling, and their effect against a numerous body of Indian chiefs drawn up in battle array in the highest degree, destructive; Columbus had brought over with him a small body of cavalry. The Indians who had never before seen such a creature, imagined the Spanish horses to be rational beings, and that each with its rider formed but one animal, they were astonished at their speed and considered their impetuosity and strength as irresistible. By this onset, they were routed, another formidable enemy to terrify and destroy them: a great number of the largest, size of dogs, which were also bred in Europe, and been brought hither, which, set on by their weapons, without attempting resistance, they fled with the utmost precipitation, and could not cite. Numbers were slain, and more made prisoners, who were soon afterwards reduced to slavery. Such as survived the massacre and preserved their freedom, fled into the mountains of the Island, which not yielding them sufficient means of subsistence, they were compelled to obtain a portion of food from their cruel pursuers, the Spaniards. God then, in order to preserve life; a tribute being imposed upon them, which was rigorously exacted. Thus a wretched race, the recollection of their former happiness sharpened and which their hopeless situation rendered still insupportable, died in great numbers, the innocent but unrevenged victims of European avarice.

After Columbus came Americus Vespucius, who under patronage of the merchants of Seville, followed the track of Columbus, touching upon the continent of South America; and after returning to Spain again, published a pompous account of his voyage, and discoveries, and gave his name to the continent of America, in the year 1498.

John Cabot, a Venitian, obtained a grant from Henry VII. of England in the year 1496, and in 1497 discovered North America. Sebastian Cabot son after Columbus had successfully crossed the Atlantic; but as the torrents of that country brought down no gold, and the Indians were not indecked with any costly ornaments but rather naked, no attempts were made then to explore the country for near a century after its discovery.

In the year 1620, a company of persecuted English religionists, composing the church of Mr. Robinson, emigrated first to America, after having obtained a Royal grant of a very extensive tract of land, (now called New England) near on the 5th of August, with a fair wind set sail and bid adieu forever to their native country; on the 10th November they discovered land were they disembarked, and concluded to abide until such time as further discoveries could be made; they erected a few temporary huts, and soon after, by mutual consent, it was agreed to choose a body politic. Before they left Holland, they had appointed a governor, and in the exchange of the country, he was continued in the office. Soon after their landing, the governor died, and the vacancy was filled by Wm. Bradford.

New England from this period began to rapidly peopled by the European; and from the emigration from the mother country, that in less than six years, from the time that the first adventurers landed at Plymouth, there were seven considerable towns built and settled in Massachusetts Bay, and Connecticut.

In the year 1630 and 1633, great additions were made to the colony. Such was the rage for emigration to New England, that in 1633, a law in council thought fit to issue an order, February 1st 1633, to prevent it. The order however was not strictly obeyed.

In 1633, the foundation of a new colony was laid in Connecticut upon the river of the same name, who first settled at Plymouth; a party of the inhabitants, removed to a pleasant and fertile Island, which they called Rhode Island, while others settled at Providence, Warwick and Newport. Thus it was, for, in the course of a few years, a great part of New England, which so late was an uncultivated forest, resounded with the axe of the woodman, apparently flying, and the blood spouting from her mouth and nostrils. The cashier, too, never parted from his key but three o'master did not hand Joseph. Having formed a close intimacy with the cashier, he pressed on an occasion of pleasure to dine with him, on the day appointed, they went to a concert, &c. On approaching the Rue Louvois, they saw by the river side a woman apparently dying, and the blood spouting from her mouth and nostrils. The cashier, with his usual politeness, stopped, and, assisting her, found her to be a married female, of the profession of blood was to spare a key to the back of the door. But no one had a key, except the cashier, who, at first, offered that of his apartment. That offer declined. The cashier, pressed, at length, gave their address. The lady, charmed at meeting with those who appeared to be persons of the first distinction, and which was opposed with the second between the husband and the police. It has been since ascertained that a piece of machinery was had been placed there expressly for the occasion, and the whole scene had been concerted. These duty after, the cash-box was empty.

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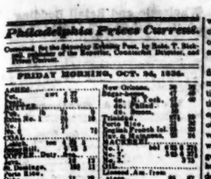
Philadelphia Prices Current.

Corrected for the Saturday Evening Post, by Robt. T. Bell, No. 40 Carter's Alley.

FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 24, 1834.



SATURDAY'S EDITION OF THE EVENING POST.

PHILADELPHIA.

Saturday, October 25, 1834.

Publication Office, No. 36 Carter's Alley, up the Girard Bank.

☞ Advertising from a distance, are not inserted in the Saturday Evening Post, unless paid for in advance.

Some weeks since, a number of bills of the Bainbridge Township Bank, Geauga county, were given to THOMAS K. GREENBANK, who has made no returns, and has (we have been informed) left the country for England. As we know not what he has collected, or will receive in the paper this week, duplicate bills for the subscriptions. Those who have not paid their bills to Greenbank, will please remit; and those who have paid him, we would also give us notice of the fact. Perhaps the postmasters, where the papers are received, will oblige both parties by doing so. Greenbank had bills for subscribers in the following towns, principally in Delaware—Chesterville, Delaware, Lewisville, Concord, Dagsboro, Delaware City, Georgetown, Glasgow, Lewisville, Lewes, Laurel, Middleton, Harrens Rock, Middletown, Milford, Newport, Saxe Georges, and Summit Bridge.

We have indulged a juvenile correspondent, by giving place to the article on our first page, relating to the Discovery of America. The writer, if he had asked advice, would probably have chosen a less landmical subject; but the account he has prepared evinces no little industry and attention, and we trust its publication will encourage him to persevere in his literary labors.

Some new works which we have been unable to peruse this week, will be noticed in our next.

THE MONEY EXPERIMENT.

A correspondent in Ohio, as an apology for his strange collection and remittance, says, "The money experiment is in full and fatal operation for now—business *is dull*, and money we hardly dare ask for." The observation is awfully true at present, and we hope it soon ex and sees months since, its operation was seven enough in this city; now it is *relieved*, and the banks some their notes freely. Men of business are relieved by their friends, (deceived in the banks,) that money is plenty, and their paper is wanted. The result is obvious—the semi-spring maintains its liberal use of discounts, and all the little business men of the mainland, basking in the sunshine, pour out their treasures to their customers. The operation proves the great, the indispensable necessity of a consulting power, composed with discretion, to keep the great money market in healthful tone, maintaining a pure and undebauched currency.

A recent incident will show those unacquainted with it, the mode in which these matters are managed. A substantial little institution, not more than 30 miles distant from this city, was recently called on by an agent of the "Monster," for $60,000 in specie, in exchange for that amount of its notes. It promptly met the demand, and a few days after, sent one of its directors, a gentleman strongly inimical to the Mother Bank, with a demand for the same amount. He gladly accepted the office, and triumphantly made his claim known at the "marble palace;" but was informed that they had obtained enough already, perhaps he spoke no acceptable to him. He was handed thirty thousand dollars in notes of his own bank, and was informed that they had at all twenty thousand dollars more of the same kind of currency on hand for his acceptance—that there was no kind of hostility against his institution, but that the bank had observed a much larger accession of its notes than was customary, holding $70,000 of its paper; and that, therefore, forwarded the $60,000 as a feeler, to ascertain if it was warranted by its circumstances to issue large amounts of paper. The country gentleman, who was somewhat mortified at the send treat with which his demand was received, and hastened back without the "hard money."

THE GREAT WEST.

The intimate connection which has so long existed between Philadelphia and the valley of the Mississippi, and which has been cemented by such good feeling and unbroken faith, is now receiving new cementing force by the completion of the Pennsylvania canal and rail-road from here to Pittsburgh. This is now *a great highway of the Union*; its effects are as yet undeveloped, though every day brings us nearer to the great result. A very brisk trade is now carrying on through this and the other canals, and our steamboats, by thousands, are ploughing the waters of the Ohio, and the Mississippi, and its tributaries, and the Missouri, and the Red River, and the Arkansas, and the Illinois, and the Wabash, and the Tennessee, and the Cumberland, and the Alabama, and the Yazoo

Rural Economist.

Collection of Riddles.

There are numerous varieties of Conundrums and Charades, but there are some few remaining established Riddles, which are always in demand. The speaks for themselves, and the latter is solved by the letter T. The great feature in this is 2000 lbs. fine hay per ton, and 2000 lbs. of straw per ton. Why is a man who is drowning like a man who is dying? Because he is past help. Why is a man who is dying like a man who is drowning? Because he is past help. Why is a man who is dying like a man who is drowning? Because he is past help. Why is a man who is dying like a man who is drowning